

WiseSkills Resources (A CHARACTER COUNTS! Partner)

Provider: The WiseSkills Character-Building Program
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Target Audience:

Elementary, middle school, and high school educators

Description of Services:

WiseSkills is a CHARACTER COUNTS! Partner that helps schools build a culture of character by *modeling, teaching, and reinforcing* principles of character throughout the year. The program unites schools, families, and communities in teaching important qualities such as *respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, perseverance, courage, self-discipline, caring*, and many other character skills that are critical for success both in and out of school. The WiseSkills K-12 curricula features a variety of practical resources for teachers and counselors, including across-the-curriculum activities, discussion ideas, multicultural quotations, journal writing ideas, brief classroom activities, service project ideas, biographies, reproducible pages, and more. Administrator materials help schools teach and reinforce good character through school wide activities such as contests and awards, PA announcements, visual displays, and special events and programs. For elementary and middle schools, WiseSkills includes reproducible parent newsletters and activity pages to help families teach character at home.

The WiseSkills Training is a one-day, interactive workshop that provides an entire school with a thorough orientation to the WiseSkills character education program. Participants will learn the difference between teaching *knowledge* and teaching *wisdom*, how to use the interdisciplinary WiseSkills curricula, and gain practical strategies to build a school culture where positive character is modeled and reinforced by adults. Teachers will gain stimulating ideas for designing

simple classroom activities using the multicultural quotations featured in the curricula. Because the WiseSkills curriculum uses the words and lives of great role models in history, teachers will learn how to integrate WiseSkills across-the-curriculum. Participants work together in grade-level groups or teams to strategize specific ways to connect the program to academic subject areas, especially language arts and social studies. For schools using CHARACTER COUNTS!, the training helps teachers infuse the *Six Pillars of Character* into academic subject areas. The workshop provides opportunities for interaction and engages participants in a variety of activities, including brainstorming, discussion, reading, writing, and role-playing. The WiseSkills Training can also include parent/community volunteers, who learn how to be effective community liaisons. Volunteers receive guidelines for finding local career speakers and arranging community service-learning projects throughout the school year. Also available are practical Implementation Kits which provide ready-to-use video trainings for the *School Leadership Team* and for the entire school staff. Implementation Kits also include school wide activity ideas, Implementation Guides, and evaluations and assessments.